



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Joint Executive Council for Veterans Organizations (JECVO) Update

December 4, 2019

Update presented by

Commissioner Benjamin F. Adams, III

Brigadier General, US Army (Ret)



Agenda

- Introductions/New Appointments
- Veterans Benefits Branch
- State Veteran Centers (Nursing Homes)
- State Veteran Cemeteries
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Women Veterans Program
- KyVETS Program
- Veterans Program Trust Fund
- Additional Budget Requests (Funding Priorities)
- Legislative Update
- Major Events



Introduction

Sixth Commissioner of the
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Keith L. Jackson

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

Serving Kentucky's Veterans



Introduction

Benefits Branch Manager
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Donna Scrivener
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Serving Kentucky's Veterans



Introduction

Women Veterans Program Coordinator
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Candace Bradley
U.S. Air Force Veteran

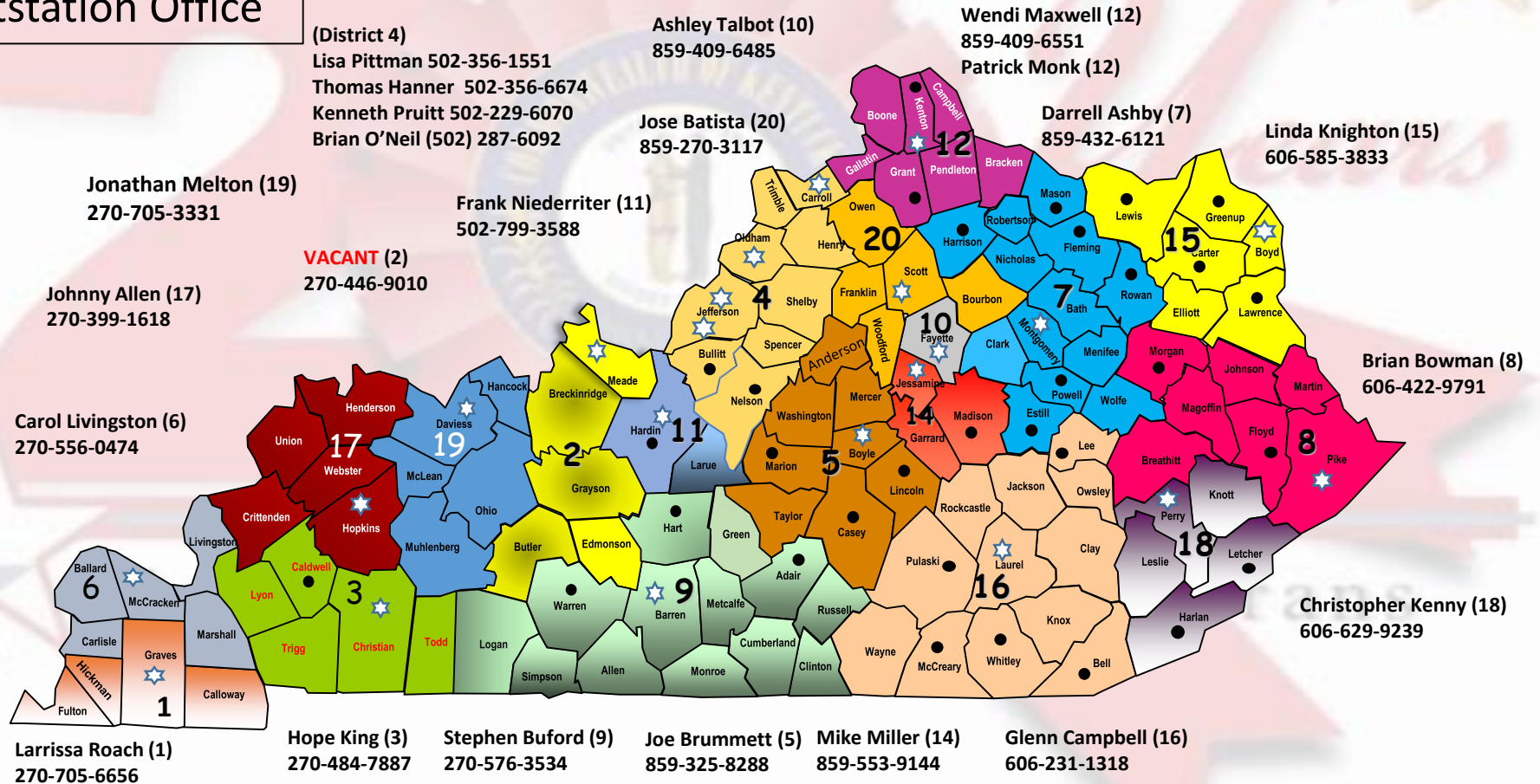
Serving Kentucky's Veterans



Benefits Branch Field Offices

23 Field Representatives in 19 Districts

- ☆ Primary Office
- Outstation Office



Revised 1 December 2019

- Harrodsburg Field Office moving to Danville National Guard Armory. Opening for business on 6 January 2020.
- Opening a new Field Office in Somerset. Anticipate opening for business in January 2020.

Veteran Centers

As of 1 December 2019



**Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY
(Jessamine County)**

159/285 = 55% (No change in the last month)
Opened in 1991



**Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, KY
(Hopkins County)**

85/156 = 55% (-1% in the last month)
Opened in 2002



**Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, Hazard, KY
(Perry County)**

111/120 = 92% (No change in the last month)
Opened in 2013



**Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff KY
(Hardin County)**

73/120 = 61% (+5% in the last month)
Opened in 2017



Veterans Cemeteries

As of 1 December 2019

KVCW, Hopkinsville, Christian County, KY



Opened March 1, 2004

Interments:

Veterans	3,301
Dependents	<u>1,222</u>
Total	4,523

Cremated 1,320

KVCC, Radcliff, Hardin County, KY



Opened June 1, 2007

Interments:

Veterans	5,343
Dependents	<u>1,327</u>
Total	6,670

Cremated 2,098

KVCN, Williamstown, Grant County, KY



Opened Aug 22, 2008

Interments:

Veterans	1,519
Dependents	<u>343</u>
Total	1,862

Cremated 725

Total: 14,238

KVCNE, Grayson, Greenup County, KY



Opened October 1, 2010

Interments:

Veterans	929
Dependents	<u>213</u>
Total	1,142

Cremated 348

KVCSE, Hyden, Leslie County, KY



Opened May 1, 2018

Interments:

Veterans	36
Dependents	<u>5</u>
Total	41

Cremated 13



Homeless Veterans Program

- Provides onetime direct financial assistance up to **\$350 (\$500 maximum)** to veterans facing eviction/utility cut off or to assist with temporary housing.
- Directs homeless veterans and their families to appropriate federal, state and local agencies to assist with transient housing, food, clothing, and employment assistance.
- Assists homeless veterans and those at risk, file for VA benefits, healthcare, and pensions as appropriate.
- KDVA is a major supporter of Operation Victory in Louisville. Two homes rehabilitated and provided to homeless veterans in the past two years.
 - The third Operation Victory home on Parthenia Ave is expected to be completed in December.
 - Operation Victory will begin construction on the forth home as soon as Parthenia Ave project is completed.
 - Accepting applications from homeless veterans for the next 3 homes through Operation Victory.
- Homeless Veteran Program Coordinator is Eileen Ward,
(502) 782-5730, email eileen.ward@ky.gov



Homeless Veterans Program

Financial Assistance

FY 2019 (1 Jul 18-30 Jun 19)

Total assistance paid out	\$62,457.65
Avg. per veteran	\$243.98
Veterans assisted with Housing	131
Veterans assisted with Utilities	<u>125</u>
Total veterans assisted	256

FY 2020 (1 Jul 19 to Present)

Total assistance paid out	\$70,857.35
Avg. per veteran	\$354.29
Veterans assisted with housing	107
Veterans assisted with Utilities	85
Veterans given emergency shelter	5
Veterans helped with other services	<u>3</u>
Total veterans assisted	200



Women Veterans Program

- Email address
women.veterans@ky.gov
- There are ~24,000 women veterans in Kentucky.
- Women Veterans Newsletter.
- Women Veterans' Town Hall Meeting:
 - We are seeking feedback on women veterans' issues in preparation for a future women veterans' conference 2020
 - We will publish several dates for Town Hall meetings
- Please share any women veterans events with KDVA for us to post on our web page and social media.
- Women Veterans Program Coordinator Candace Bradley, cell 502-545-4193, email candace.bradley@ky.gov



“Have You Served” Outreach Campaign

Something New

Goal: Reach the thousands of women veterans in Kentucky who are not seeking benefits and services because they don’t think of themselves as “veterans.”

Action: Enlist state and local government agencies and non-profit organizations to ask their clients for veterans information. Provide to these partners promotional materials for KDVA’s “Have You Served” campaign. Offer educational briefings to agency heads, elected officials, PIOs, etc., on why “Have You Served” is a more effective and accurate question than “Are You a Veteran?”

KDVA’s work brings hundreds of millions of dollars into Kentucky every year through veteran benefits. Those benefits are direct transfers from the federal government to veterans and their families. Every veteran we reach for whom we can obtain benefits is a net increase in revenue for the Commonwealth.

Every veteran we fail to reach – especially women veterans – is a veteran not served by KDVA.



Employment Support Program

KyVets Veteran Services:

- Resume review and update
- Referral to employers
- Referral to other resources
- Education & Training
- HireKy website & App (<https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky>)

Kentucky
Veteran
Employment,
Training, and
Support
(KyVets)

KyVets Employer Services:

- Education on why hiring veterans is good business
- Matching veterans skills and experience to employer needs
- Free advertisement of positions
- Top talent referrals
- HireKy website & App (<https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky>)

KyVETS Program Coordinator is April Brown, (502) 782-5735,
email april.brown@ky.gov or kyvets@ky.org



Please email any upcoming job fairs or job listings for us to post on our web page and social media.

Veterans Program Trust Fund

- The Veterans Program Trust Fund (VPTF) supports many veteran programs and projects throughout Kentucky but for which other funds are not available.
- The VPTF is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor. The board meets several times per year.
- The fund receives a steady stream of revenue from a \$5 fee that is associated with the initial purchase and annual renewal of Veteran and Military License Plates, as well as tax deductible contributions from private and corporate donors.

Last Meeting 18 September 2019

- 7 Grant Applications Received
- 7 Grants Approved

Total Obligated **\$119,500.00**

Next Meeting 8 January 2020

- 8 Grant Applications Slots Available. 8 Grant Applications Received
- Deadline for submitting grant applications is 9 December 2019. No more being accepted.



KDVA Capital Projects 2020-2022

1. KDVA Maintenance Pool	\$1,000,000
2. THVC Resurface Driveway & Parking Lot	\$1,000,000
3. RVC Construct Staff Parking Lot	\$450,000
4. KVCC Resurface Parking Lot	\$300,000
5. THVC Dishwasher and Hood Vent Replacement	\$200,000
6. EKVC Facility Roof Replacement	\$400,000
7. WKVC Heat Tape Repair/New Water Temp Control System	\$300,000
8. WKVC HVAC Replacement	\$1,000,000
9. RVC Outside Storage Building	\$200,000
10. EKVC Replace Cooling Towers	\$400,000
11. WKVC Replace Cooling Tower	\$350,000
12. THVC Steam Boiler Replacement	\$300,000
13. Construct Bowling Green Veterans Center (Warren County)	\$30,000,000

General Funds **\$12,240,000**

Federal Funds **\$22,660,800**

Total **\$35,900,000**



Additional Budget Requests 2020-2022

	FY20-21 Requested	FY21-22 Requested
1. Defined Calculations (COT, Fleet, retirement increase, healthcare costs, etc.)	\$2,127,100	\$2,873,300
2. Competitive Salaries for Nursing Staff	\$7,492,600	\$7,530,100
3. Fill Veteran Centers Nursing & Non-Nursing Staff Vacancies	\$6,408,100	\$6,421,700
4. Fund Nurse Student Loan Repayment Program	\$240,000	\$240,000
5. Fund 20 Additional Veteran Benefit Field Representatives	\$1,412,800	\$1,792,100
6. Fund Homeless Veterans Program	\$200,000	\$200,000
7. Fund VSO Burial Honors Program	\$342,000	\$348,000
8. Fund Indigent Burial Program	\$35,000	\$35,000
9. Fund CFOC Vacancies	\$605,500	\$709,200
10. Fund CFOC Salary Increases	\$705,400	\$806,600
11. Fund Fleet Vehicles for VBFRs and Vet Cemetery Auto Technician	\$345,100	\$100,100
12. Fund Salary Increase for Vet Centers Non-nursing Staff	\$1,321,800	\$1,334,200
13. Debt Service for Bowling Green Veterans Center	\$865,000	\$865,000
Total Additional Budget Request	\$22,100,300	\$23,260,300



Veterans Legislation 2019 Enacted

- **HB 296**: Creates a student loan repayment program for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who will be employed by KDVA
- **HB 323**: Grants occupational license reciprocity to members of the reserve, National Guard, veterans, and their spouses
- **HB 338**: Gives interview preference for state jobs to service members and their families
- **SB 55**: Adds a veterans-at-risk "Green Alert" to the "Golden Alert" System
- **HB 243**: Requires Kentucky State Police to provide personal protection to Kentucky Medal of Honor recipients at public events and ceremonies
- **HB 316**: Allows service members who receive official orders requiring relocation to terminate or suspend select services without penalty or fee
- **HB 356**: Allows service members, spouses and dependents to maintain residency status after being accepted or enrolled in a Kentucky public postsecondary institution, if the service member receives official orders to relocate
- **HB 399**: Allows military families moving into the state on official orders to pre-enroll their children in a school district before obtaining an address



Legislative Priorities for 2020

1. Exempt Military Retired Pay and Survivor Benefits from State Income Tax to make KY competitive with surrounding states. (BR 251 Rep. W. Thomas and BR 367 Rep. C. Massey)
2. Exempt Veteran Service Organizations from property tax. (BR 127 Rep. K. Bratcher and BR 247 Rep. M. Koch)
3. Bowling Green Veterans Center, design and preconstruction. (BR 125 Reps. M. Meredith, P. Minter, J. Petrie, P. Pratt, M. Prunty, B. Reed, S. Riley, B. Rowland, S. Sheldon, W. Stone, W. Thomas, K. Upchurch)
4. Allow certification as a Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) for verification and evaluation who meet the criteria of veteran eligibility, ownership, and control.
5. Clarify eligibility for a special military license plate and provide for a special military license plate for spouses of veterans.
6. Allow veterans who are paid at the 100 percent rate for service-connected disabilities by the USDVA to purchase disabled veteran license plates with no initial fee or renewal fee.
7. Amend KRS 132.810 to expand the homestead exemption in the Constitution to include surviving un-remarried spouses of totally disabled veterans of the United States Armed Forces.



Legislative Priorities for 2020

8. Designate the Honor and Remember flag as the state's emblem of the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the US Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty. (BR 85 Rep. C. Massey)
9. Amend definition of Veteran-owned Business. (BR 412 Rep. D. Parrett)
10. Veteran Suicide Memorial Mile Interstate-75 in Whitley County. (BR 109 Rep. R. Huff)
11. Amend KRS 40.317 to remove requirement for KDVA to employ no fewer than five Veteran Benefits Regional Administrators.
12. Amend KRS 159.075 Pre-enrollment and Preadmission of Military child to include transfers from Active Duty to Reserve Component and to waive Tuition Exception fees for military families living in temporary housing outside the school district while permanent home is being built in the school district.

Serving Kentucky's Veterans

Recent Successes

- **Top Rated Veterans Centers** - In October 2019, **for the first time ever – all of Kentucky's state veterans long-term care centers earned the top rating (5-Stars)** from the federal agency that oversees long-term care facilities.* The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families, and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily.
- **Top Rated Veterans Cemetery** - In July 2019, the National Cemetery Administration visited Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North (KVCN) in Williamstown, KY. Following a rigorous inspection, the cemetery received an overall compliance percentage of **96 percent.**** And was rated as one of the **top State Veteran Cemeteries in the country** for 2019.

*Nursing Home Compare (24 October 2019). The official U.S. government site for Medicare. Retrieved from <https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

**National Cemetery Administration (1 August 2019). Veterans Cemetery Grants Compliance Review Program; *Preliminary Findings Report for Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North*

Recent Successes

- **Top Quality Awards** - In November 2019, two employees of the Paul E. Patton Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center in Hazard, KY received **Professional Achievement Awards** from the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities:
 - Charlotte Cornette, Caregiving Award
 - Greg Gilbert, Nursing Care Award
- **Citizen of the Year** - In November 2019, KDVA Field Representative Wendi Maxwell was named Independence, KY's Citizen of the Year for her work helping veterans.

Serving Kentucky's Veterans



Major Events

December 9, 2019

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Kentucky Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

Capitol, Frankfort, KY

December 9, 2019

POW/MIA Chair Dedication Ceremony

Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort, KY

June 12-13, 2020

Veterans Engagement Action Center (VEAC)

One-stop shop for Veteran Benefits, Counseling, and Services

Lexington Christian Academy

450 W. Reynolds Road, Lexington, KY



Questions

Contact us at



www.veterans.ky.gov



Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs



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(502) 564-9203

For an electronic copy of this presentation go to the KDVA website at
<https://veterans.ky.gov/otherprograms/Pages/JECVO.aspx>.